(d) whether there is any proposal to start more CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The number of CGHS dispensaries is 14 in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The following facilities are provided in the CGHS dispensaries:—

(i) OPD treatment in Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic systems and also in Sidha in Chennai.

(ii) Clinical Laboratory investigations.

(iii) Specialist consultation in different specialities.

(iv) X-ray

(v) E.C.G.

Besides the above facilities, the facilities for super speciality investigations like ECG. Scanning Serological, alongwith super specialities treatment is provided through the recognised private hospitals.

(c) The total number of CGHS beneficiaries is 1,68,576 in Tamil Nadu.

(d) Although, there is a proposal to start more CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu yet due to financial constraints and non-implementation of SIU Report, it is not feasible to open any new CGHS dispensary in the said State for the present.

Advantage of Iodised Salt

5087. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from UNICEF and IMA extolled the advantages of iodised salt to combat iodine deficiency disorders in countries like India, where soil is deficient of iodine;

(b) whether survey conducted by IMA in 1988 revealed that out of 270 districts of the country, 235 districts were endemic to IDDs; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken in the matter to allay the fears against consumption of iodised salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The primary etiological

factor of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) in India is environmental iodine deficiency, that is deficiency of iodine in soil, leading to inadequate iodine in foods and water consumed by the people living in the endemic areas.

(b) and (c) Surveys conducted by Directorate General of Health Services/ State Governments/Indian Council of Medical Research and other health institutions have revealed that out of 282 districts surveyed so far, Iodine Deficiency Disorders are endemic in 241 districts i.e. where the prevalence is more than 10%. In order to overcome the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, Government is implementing National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. Under the programme, supply of iodated salt in place of common salt is an important component.

In order to allay the fears against consumption of iodated salt, adequate publicity highlighting the benefits of consuming iodated salt is being given by the Central & State Governments through different media.

Malaria Eradication Programme

†5088. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to check malaria in the country, despite carrying out new researches in the field of medical science and spending crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent by Government on eradication of malaria during the last three years;

(d) whether Government have prepared any ambitious scheme to check malaria; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) With the launching of Modified Plan of Operation (MPO) for control of malaria since April, 1977, the incidence of malaria has been brought down to 2.18 million cases in 1984 against 6.4 million cases recorded in 1976. Since then the incidence of malaria has been contained between 2-3 million cases annually.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.